



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Tomzak and Members of City Council
FROM: Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager
DATE: May 15, 2012
SUBJECT: City Manager's Update

Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

Elder Abuse Prevention - May is Elder Abuse Prevention Month in Virginia. Each year, thousands of older adults and individuals with disabilities are mistreated by family members, by caregivers, and by others responsible for their well-being. There are many forms of adult abuse, including physical and mental abuse, neglect and self-neglect, and financial exploitation. Adult abuse occurs in families and communities of all social, economic, and racial backgrounds. In Virginia, Adult Protective Services (APS) investigates reports of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation and can arrange for a wide variety of services to stop the abuse and prevent further mistreatment. During state fiscal year 2011, Virginia APS received almost 18,000 reports of this type of abuse, and fifty-nine percent of these reports were substantiated. The City of Fredericksburg Department of Social Services' Protective Services Unit investigated 46 complaints of adult abuse last year and maintains 10 ongoing cases.

The following is a list of activities to focus attention on this issue:

- On May 1, all of the Services staff wore purple shirts that stated "May is Elder Abuse Prevention Month" and the Elder Abuse Prevention month banner was hung in front of our building.
- On May 16, Protective services staff will be at the Madonna House to speak to employees and residents about elder abuse prevention and services the Department can offer.
- On May 25, Protective services staff will be at Mill Park Terrace to speak to employees and residents about elder abuse prevention and services the Department can offer.
- On May 25, the Department will have Flip Flop Friday, during which staff members can pay \$5 to wear their favorite flip flops that day. The Protective Services staff will also be having a bake sale. All proceeds will go to the Alzheimer's Association.

Employee Wellness Fair - City employees participated in the second annual Employee Wellness Fair on May 2 at the Dorothy Hart Community Center. The event was coordinated by Jason Smith, Ray Gunnell, Jennifer Hellier, and Joanne Jones of the Parks and Rec Department, Melissa Steiniger from Human Resources, and Loren Kato from the Safety Office. A variety of vendors participated in the fair, including: Anthem, Ameritas, AFLAC, Colonial 1 Life, ICMA-RC, PNC Bank, Stellar One Bank, BJ's, Fredericksburg Area HIV/AIDS Support Service, REACH - Employee Assistance Program, and the Lion's Club Vision and Hearing evaluation bus. The vendors distributed information related to health and wellness topics including insurance, education, finances, leisure, mental health, as well as smoking cessation, HIV testing, healthy eating, and weight loss. The food vendors were Subway, Salad Creations, Walmart, and Chick-Fil-A. Vendors and several local businesses, including Monkee's, the Trolley Stop Deli, and Brock's Riverside Grill, donated raffle prizes. In an effort to give back to the community, City employees donated used eyeglasses and hearing aids to the Lion's Club to refurbish and distribute at no cost to those who qualify for financial assistance in this program.



Employee Wellness Fair

Marine Corps Historic Half "Oscar Mike" Award – On May 18, representatives from the Marine Corps Historic Half will present the Oscar Mike Award to the recently retired Deputy Fire Chief Mark Bledsoe. Oscar Mike is derived from the military phonetic alphabet and translates to *On the Move*. Established in 2010, the award recognizes an individual whose efforts help distinguish the Historic Half as a premier event that benefits the entire community. Deputy Chief Bledsoe was the operational coordinator for all of the Fire and EMS support for the Historic Half since its inception in 2008; this year he is signed up as a runner for the 13.1 mile race. More information about the Oscar Mike Award and the Marine Corps Historic Half can be found in the [event program](#).

Fire Department Acquires Water Rescue Equipment - The Fire Department recently acquired a significant amount of water rescue apparatus from the Fredericksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad. The Fredericksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad has made a fundamental change to their core mission to concentrate on delivery of EMS services to the City, and the membership decided to divest the organization of their dive and water rescue equipment, heavy rescue equipment, and water rescue programs. With this change, the Fire Department was able to purchase four watercrafts and much additional equipment to add to the capabilities of the FFD Dive and Water Rescue Team. The inventory includes:

- Dive Boat with 40HP motor, jet propulsion prop and trailer
- Inflatable boat with 25HP motor and trailer
- Blue-hole canoe
- Self-bailing raft

This additional equipment will allow Fire Department staff to become well trained and capable of providing emergency assistance on navigable waterways in and around the City, including the Rappahannock River and Motts Run Reservoir. All personnel are currently participating in boat operator training.

New Officers at FPD – Three new police officers were sworn in on May 14 in a ceremony conducted by Circuit Court Clerk Jeff Small. Officers Sara Lombrana and Matthew Bennett graduate from the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy on May 17, and Officer Tabatha Timmons is previously certified and was most recently employed by the Arlington County Police Department.



Officers Lombrana, Timmons, and Bennett

Law Enforcement United Bike Tour – On May 11, riders from the LEU Bike Tour stopped at Police Headquarters for a brief refuel and to pay their respects at the memorial for the City's four fallen officers. The stop in Fredericksburg occurred during the second leg of the three-day tour from Chesapeake, Virginia to Washington D.C. This year, the LEU Tour collected over \$225,000 to donate to the [Concerns of Police Survivors](#) and the [Officer Down Memorial Page](#).

